

# BOOK REVIEWS

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**FETAL HEART RATE MONITORING**—Roger K. Freeman, MD, Medical Director, Women's Hospital, Memorial Hospital Medical Center, Long Beach, and Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of California, Irvine; and Thomas J. Garite, MD, Associate Medical Director for Perinatology, Women's Hospital, Memorial Hospital Medical Center, Long Beach, and Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of California, Irvine. The Williams & Wilkins Co., 428 E. Preston St., Baltimore (21202), 1981. 182 pages, \$27.00.

The extensive clinical use of electronic fetal heart rate and uterine activity monitoring during the past decade has made a significant impact on the practice of obstetrics in this country. Since its widespread use has been so recent, many physicians responsible for patients in labor were not exposed to electronic fetal monitoring during their training. Much of the training in electronic fetal monitoring has been in postgraduate courses and other workshops. Heretofore, no comprehensive text has been available. This book makes a significant step towards filling that void. Our knowledge of electronic fetal monitoring is incomplete; nevertheless, the authors have condensed a large body of information into a very practical and readable text. An adequate bibliography is provided for those who wish to pursue specific topics in greater depth. The index is fairly comprehensive—however, an expansion of this part of the book would have been helpful.

The book presents a logical and practical approach to the use of electronic fetal heart rate and uterine activity monitoring. Chapters include the physiologic basis of fetal monitoring and the effects of hypoxia and asphyxia on the fetus and newborn. A very important chapter deals with the instrumentation itself, for, as the authors point out, to interpret fetal heart rate tracings accurately, it is important to understand the instrumentation used to accumulate, process and display the data. Other chapters deal with uterine contraction monitoring and basic pattern recognition of fetal heart rate tracings. There is also a chapter on the use of fetal acid base monitoring in conjunction with electronic fetal monitoring. One chapter deals with antepartum fetal monitoring including oxytocin challenge tests (OCT's) and nonstress tests (NST's). The techniques for carrying out these tests and evaluating their usefulness is presented.

The book is well illustrated with examples of fetal heart rate tracings which are clearly reproduced. Clinical histories along with appropriate monitoring tracings provide very useful information to the clinician.

The book is valuable not only as a text in the principles of fetal monitoring, basic through advanced, but also as a reference book. The information presented in this text should be familiar to everyone responsible for care of pregnant women in both the antepartum and intrapartum periods.

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**DRUG TREATMENT—Principles and Practice of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics—Second Edition**—Edited by Graeme S. Avery, Editor-in-Chief, Australasian Drug Information Services, Division of ADIS Press, Sydney & Auckland; Editor: Clinical phar-

macokinetics and Current Therapeutics. ADIS Press USA, Inc., Building 3, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, NY (11205), 1980. 1,382 pages, \$33.50.

The basic theme of the first edition of this book was the selection and use of drugs within a disease oriented context. Dr. Avery's book successfully filled a void in pharmacology textbooks that bridged the gap between those that either emphasize diagnosis and pathophysiology or pharmacology and therapeutics. The first edition was so successful, in fact, that a second edition was published. This edition has been extensively revised and updated with new material both in the text and in the form of summary tables. References have been added into the text so that the reader can locate the original literature for further study.

The format and style of the first edition has been retained. It is organized into three sections: (I) Clinical Pharmacology—Describes some of the basic concepts of drug action, clinical significance and use of basic pharmacokinetic principles needed to individualize drug therapy. Individual chapters discuss unique problems in prescribing drugs for the elderly and pediatric populations, and clinically important drug-drug interactions. A new chapter has been added on drug overdose and poisoning.

(II) Therapeutics—Drug therapies of general categories of disease are considered in this section. For example, drug therapies useful for common diseases of the skin, eyes, mouth, cardiovascular, endocrine, respiratory systems and the like are described in individual chapters. A new chapter has also been added to this section on "Diseases of a Tropical Environment." All the chapters in this section have been updated with new material. Several examples of updated material are a more detailed description of PUVA (psoralen plus ultraviolet light-A) therapy for the treatment of psoriasis; coverage of the discovery of a toxin producing *Clostridium difficile* and its possible role in pseudomembranous colitis and antibiotic associated colitis; addition of information on newer antiarrhythmic drugs being introduced into cardiology.

(III) Appendices—There are five excellent sections with tabular data: A—Physiochemical and pharmacokinetic properties of drugs; B—Adverse drug reactions; C—Clinically important drug-drug interactions; D—Selection of antibacterial agents; E—Drug dosage adjustment in renal failure. With the comprehensive and thorough subject index, *Drug Treatment* provides both a rapid access to important drug information, as well as a discussion of drugs from a clinical perspective.

*Drug Treatment* is a compilation by many internationally recognized experts in clinical medicine and pharmacology. I would enthusiastically recommend this book to medical students, as well as practicing physicians who want more information concerning basic principles of clinical pharmacology and a discussion of therapeutics outside their own specialty.

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